

Message Text

SECRET

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TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, EINV, PDIP, ET, US

SUBJECT: VANCE BILATERAL WITH FELEKE

1. SECRETARY VANCE MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FELEKE IN NEW YORK MAY 24 TO DISCUSS BILATERAL RELATIONS AND REGIONAL PROBLEMS. SECRETARY EXPRESSED HOPE ETHIOPIAN COMPENSATION COMMISSION WOULD ACT SOON IN RESPECT TO AMERICAN CASES AS IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE FOR BOTH COUNTRIES IF U.S. WERE FORCED TO ACT BY ITS LEGISLATION. FELEKE REPLIED THAT HE TOO HOPED PROGRESS COULD BE MADE AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTEND TO DETAILS OF GETTING MATTER MOVING. HE

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PROMISED TO DO ALL HE COULD TO ASSIST NEW AMBASSADOR IN CARRYING OUT HIS DUTIES. HE SAID ETHIOPIA GRANTED AGREEMENT BECAUSE IT HAD SEEN POSITIVE SIGNS THAT ITS DESIRE FOR BETTER RELATIONS MIGHT BE RECIPROCATED.

2. ON ERITREA FELEKE NOTED THERE HAD BEEN MENGISTU-AARON AGREEMENT U.S. WOULD EXERT ITS INFLUENCE WITH ITS

FRIENDS TO HAVE THEM REFRAIN FROM SUPPLYING ARMS TO ERITREANS. PMGSE FEELS ERITREA IS AN INTERNAL MATTER NOT TO BE SEEN AS SEPARATE FROM ETHIOPIA AND NOT A MATTER FOR UN OR OAU ACTION. SECRETARY SAID U.S. WILL NOT INTERVENE IN ERITREA. WE HOPE CONFLICT CAN BE

RESOLVED PEACEFULLY. FELEKE SAID OTHER COUNTRIES MUST STOP THEIR INTERFERENCE IN ERITREA WHICH IS INTERNAL MATTER WHICH ETHIOPIA WOULD LIKE TO SOLVE PEACEFULLY ON BASIS OF NINE-POINT PROGRAM. ENCOURAGED BY SAUDIS, OTHER ARABS, AND CERTAIN EUROPEAN ELEMENTS WHICH WANT FIGHTING PROLONGED, ERITREANS HAD REJECTED PROGRESSIVE STEPS TAKEN BY PMGSE. FELEKE ASSURED SECRETARY THAT CUBANS WERE NOT ACTIVE IN COMBAT ROLE IN ERITREA. HE ADDED THAT ETHIOPIA'S FORCES HAVE NOT YET BEEN FULLY DEPLOYED TO DEAL WITH SITUATION THERE.

3. SECRETARY REITERATED CONTINUING U.S. RESPECT FOR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ETHIOPIA. SECRETARY NOTED WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO SOMALIS IN PRIVATE AS WELL AS STATING PUBLICLY OUR BELIEF IN TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ETHIOPIA. WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING SPECIFIC ASSURANCES ON THIS MATTER FROM SOMALIA AND ARE NOW WATCHING CAREFULLY TO SEE THAT ASSURANCES WE HAVE RECEIVED ARE ADHERED TO. SECRETARY INFORMED FELEKE THAT U.S. HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO FURNISH DEFENSIVE ARMS TO SOMALIA BUT MAY BE SECRET

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SENDING A MILITARY SURVEY MISSION TO SOMALIA SOON TO LOOK INTO DEFENSIVE NEEDS SOMALIA MIGHT HAVE SUCH AS COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, AND ANTI-TANK EQUIPMENT. SECRETARY TOLD FELEKE HE WANTED HIM TO KNOW ABOUT THIS MILITARY SURVEY TEAM SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SURPRISES IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US.

4. FELEKE RAISED SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA OF F-15'S AND ETHIOPIAN CONCERN THAT SAUDIS INTEND USE THE F-15'S AGAINST ETHIOPIA. SECRETARY DENIED THIS CATEGORICALLY NOTING SAUDIS HAVE PLEDGED TO USE AIRCRAFT ONLY FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES. IN RESPONSE SECRETARY'S INQUIRY, FELEKE SAID ETHIOPIANS NOT IN CONTACT WITH SOMALIS. ETHIOPIA FEELS SOMALIA'S AGGRESSION CONTINUES AS LONG AS SOMALIA CONTINUES TO ENTERTAIN ITS GOALS OF GREATER SOMALIA. ETHIOPIA'S FRIENDS WILL STAY AS LONG AS SOMALIA FAILS TO RENOUNCE ITS CLAIMS ON ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY AND AS LONG AS ETHIOPIA FEELS AN AGGRESSIVE THREAT FROM SOMALIA.

VANCE

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